

**Clean Version of Pending Claims Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(3)**

1. A fastening and retention system for a strap, said system comprising:

- A1
- a) a strap having at a first strap end, a securing mechanism configured to receive a second strap end, and
  - b) one or more retention loops for maintaining, when said second strap end has been secured by said securing mechanism, said second strap end in close contact with a portion of the strap that is proximal to the first strap end,

wherein said retention loop(s) can slide along said strap when the strap is not secured by said securing mechanism,

wherein one or more of said retention loops comprises a first component of a mating structure, and said strap comprises a complementary component of the mating structure,

wherein said mating structure comprises a protruding member and an aperture sized to mate with said protruding member, and

wherein said mating structure prevents said loop(s) from sliding freely along said strap when the two components are mated.

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2. (Canceled)

A2 3. A system according to claim 1, wherein said protruding member is located on said retention loop, and said aperture for receiving said protruding member is located on said strap.

A2 4. A system according to claim 1, wherein said protruding member is located on said strap, and said aperture for receiving said protruding member is located on said retention loop.

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5. A system according to claim 1, wherein said strap is configured to receive thereon a device.

A3 6. A system according to claim 5, wherein said device comprises at least one of the following: a wristwatch, an altimeter, a depth meter, a pedometer, a pager, a telephone, a personal data device and a tide meter.

7. A system according to claim 6, wherein said device is a wristwatch.

8. A system according to claim 6, wherein said device is an altimeter.

9. A system according to claim 6, wherein said device is a depth meter.

10. A system according to claim 6, wherein said device is a pedometer.

~~11.~~ (Canceled)

A4 12. A system according to claim 1, wherein said strap is a two piece strap comprising:

a) a first piece having a first device end and said first strap end, and

b) a second piece having a second device end and said second strap end, wherein said first and second device ends comprise an attachment structure for securing said first and second pieces to a device.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

A5 16. A system according to claim 1, wherein said flexible strap comprises at least one of the following materials: leather, rubber and a polymer.

17. A system according to claim 16, wherein said polymer is selected from the following list: polyurethane, polyurethane/silicon blend, nylon, and polyvinyl chloride.

A6 18. A fastening and retention system, comprising:

a wrist-born device,

a strap having a first end and a second end, the first end including a securing mechanism configured to receive a second end, and the strap being physically connected to the wrist-born device, and

a retention loop for maintaining at least a portion of the second end in contact with at least a portion of the first end,

wherein the retention loop comprises a first component of a mating structure, and the strap comprises a complementary component of the mating structure,

wherein the retention loop can freely slide along the strap when the strap is not secured by the securing mechanism,

wherein the mating structure prevents the retention loop from sliding freely along the strap when the two components are mated.

19. A system comprising:

a retention loop defining an opening,

a first strap passing through the opening,

a second strap passing through the opening,

wherein the retention loops comprises a first component of a mating structure, and the second strap comprises a complementary component of the mating structure,

wherein the mating structure prevents the loop from sliding freely along the straps when the two components are mated.

**Marked Up Version of Pending Claims Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(3)**

1. (Amended) A fastening and retention system for a strap, said system comprising:
  - a) a strap having at a first strap end, a securing mechanism configured to receive a second strap end, and
  - b) one or more retention loops for maintaining, when said second strap end has been secured by said securing mechanism, said second strap end in close contact with a portion of the strap that is proximal to the first strap end,wherein said retention loop(s) can slide along said strap when the strap is not secured by said securing mechanism,  
  
wherein one or more of said retention loops comprises a first component of a mating structure, and said strap comprises a complementary component of the mating structure, [and]  
  
wherein said mating structure comprises a protruding member and an aperture sized to mate with said protruding member, and  
  
wherein said mating structure prevents said loop(s) from sliding freely along said strap when the two components are mated.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Amended) A system according to claim [2] 1, wherein said protruding member is located on said retention loop, and said [slot] aperture for receiving said protruding member is located on said strap.

4. (Amended) A system according to claim [2] 1, wherein said protruding member is located on said strap, and said [slot] aperture for receiving said protruding member is located on said retention loop.
5. (Recited) A system according to claim 1, wherein said strap is configured to receive thereon a device.
6. (Amended) A system according to claim 5, wherein said device [is] comprises at least one of the following: a wristwatch, an altimeter, a depth meter, a pedometer, a pager, a telephone, a personal data device [or] and a tide meter.
7. (Recited) A system according to claim 6, wherein said device is a wristwatch.
8. (Recited) A system according to claim 6, wherein said device is an altimeter.
9. (Recited) A system according to claim 6, wherein said device is a depth meter.
10. (Recited) A system according to claim 6, wherein said device is a pedometer.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said strap is a two piece strap comprising:
  - a) a first piece having a first device end and said first strap end, and
  - b) a second piece having a second device end and said second strap end, wherein said first and second device ends comprise an attachment structure for securing said first and second pieces to a device.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)

16. (Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said flexible strap comprises at least one of the following materials: leather, rubber [or] and a polymer.

17. (Amended) A system according to claim 16, wherein said polymer is selected from the following list: polyurethane, polyurethane/silicon blend, nylon, [or] and polyvinyl chloride.

18. (New) A fastening and retention system, comprising:

a wrist-born device,

112 a strap having a first end and a second end, the first end including a securing mechanism configured to receive a second end, and the strap being physically connected to the wrist-born device, and

a retention loop for maintaining at least a portion of the second end in contact with at least a portion of the first end,

wherein the retention loop comprises a first component of a mating structure, and the strap comprises a complementary component of the mating structure,

wherein the retention loop can freely slide along the strap when the strap is not secured by the securing mechanism,

wherein the mating structure prevents the retention loop from sliding freely along the strap when the two components are mated.

19. (New) A system comprising:

112 a retention loop defining an opening,

a first strap passing through the opening,

a second strap passing through the opening,

117 wherein the retention loops comprises a first component of a mating structure, and the second strap comprises a complementary component of the mating structure,